



# A Stable Population for a Safe Climate

UNICEF:

*"Family planning could bring more benefit to more people at less cost than any other single technology now available to the human race."*



Universal access to family planning means  
One Billion fewer climate victims and carbon emitters

## It's about justice

Over 200 million women want to avoid pregnancy but don't have the means. Unwanted births endanger women and their children, and impoverish families. Population growth damages their communities and their environment.  
*It's an injustice to women, to future generations and to other species.*

## It's our choice

- Future global population depends on the policies and programs we adopt.
- Voluntary family planning is the fastest and cheapest way to reduce birth rate. It should be culturally appropriate, politically supported and integrated with community development, girls' education and women's autonomy.
  - 'Development first' has failed. All nations successfully 'developed' since WWII reduced population growth by family planning first.
  - Currently we spend less than 0.4% of international aid on family planning.
  - Less than half what we spent 20 years ago.
  - Too little to reduce fertility in Africa.
  - Too little to meet UN's medium projection – we are heading for > 10 billion.
  - One hundred times less than on agricultural development.

*If we took 1% from agriculture, education and health to fund family planning, it would increase the impact of all programs.*

## It's adaptation and mitigation

Reducing population growth through voluntary family planning could:

- Provide a quarter of emissions cuts needed by 2050, more cheaply than renewable energy;
- Reduce the number of victims of extreme weather events;
- Reduce hunger and water scarcity;
- Protect forests and soils;
- Reduce infant and maternal mortality;
- Provide more renewable energy per person;
- Stimulate economic development;
- Empower women;
- Reduce unemployment and labour exploitation;
- Reduce violence and forced displacement.

*The climate change treaty should not ignore population growth*

## Omission is a barrier

- If family planning is recognised as an adaptation strategy in the climate treaty, least developed countries can include it in their adaptation programs.
- If omitted, family planning will become more marginalised.
- Family planning was omitted from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), funding shrank as a result, yet every MDG is hindered by population growth.

*Only low population projections achieve less than 2° warming  
- don't risk failure by omission of family planning.*



Maurice Strong,

Secretary-General  
1st Earth Summit, Rio, 1992:

*"Either we reduce our numbers voluntarily,  
or nature will do it for us brutally"*

Norman Borlaug,

father of Green Revolution:

*"there can be no permanent progress in the battle against hunger until the agencies that fight for increased food production and those that fight for population control unite in a common effort."*



Mechai Viravaidya

Thailand's Father of Family Planning:

*"Don't have your inheritance divided by a greater number."*



Kofi Annan,

former UN Secretary-General:

*"Population stabilization should be a priority for sustainable development"*



John Maynard Keynes:

*"If only Malthus, rather than Ricardo, had been the parent stem from which 19th century economics sprang, what a richer and more pleasant world we would enjoy today"*



Isaac Asimov:

*"democracy cannot survive overpopulation;  
human dignity cannot survive it...  
The more people there are,  
the less one individual matters."*



Sir David Attenborough:

*"All environmental problems become harder, and ultimately impossible, to solve with ever more people"*

